



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, I, JIM DOYLE, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, recognize that substance use disorders are the fourth leading cause of death in Wisconsin, and cost \$4.6 billion in lost profits, productivity, disability, and premature death. However, studies conclude that treatment of substance use disorders yields an estimated net return of seven dollars for each dollar invested, and;

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately 456,723 individuals in Wisconsin currently needing treatment for a substance use disorder, while only 58,320 receive treatment annually;

**WHEREAS**, alcohol and other substance use disorders are treatable public health problems, many who have these conditions do not seek help due to lack of awareness or information on its impact on them, as well as the stigma associated with abuse or dependency on alcohol or other substances;

**WHEREAS**, alcohol and other substance use and addiction is one of 11 priorities identified in Wisconsin's state health plan entitled *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*;

**WHEREAS**, physicians and allied health professionals are most often in a position to screen for and identify a substance use disorder when a patient is seen for their annual health screening or periodic health status evaluations, and;

**WHEREAS**, patients screened for potential alcohol and other substance use disorders by a physician as part of their health status evaluations are more likely to respond to a physician's intervention and referral to treatment, and;

**WHEREAS**, April is National Alcohol Awareness Month, and April 7 is National Alcohol Screening Day,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby declare **April, 2005** as

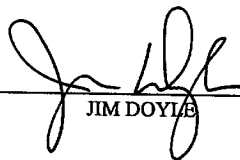
### **WISCONSIN ALCOHOL AWARENESS/PHYSICIAN ALCOHOL SCREENING MONTH**

and I encourage all physicians and their public health partners in the State of Wisconsin to incorporate alcohol-screening procedures in all patient contacts for purposes of:

1. Increasing awareness of alcohol and other substance use disorders as public health concerns that are treatable like other general medical health problems.
2. Ensuring that all patients seen are screened for potential alcohol and other substance use disorders as part of their initial and periodic health status evaluations.
3. Providing support to allied health professionals in their efforts to screen for alcohol and other substance use disorders with patients seen under their care.
4. Providing referral to appropriate treatment when it is determined that an alcohol use or other substance use disorder is present.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this thirty-first day of March in the year two thousand five.

  
JIM DOYLE

By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State